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Grand Teton National Park

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Grand Teton National Park Fire Management: Preparing for Fire Season



Grand Teton National Park structural and wildland firefighters held a wildland-urban interface drill in conjunction with one of the park concessioners last month, preparing both fire personnel and the popular concession operation for the upcoming fire season.

Triangle X Ranch, located within Grand Teton National Park, is a long-time park concessioner. With a history dating back to the 1920s, the dude ranch operates 49 developed acres including approximately 20 guest cabins, a main lodge, corrals, facility outbuildings, and employee

housing. Triangle X Ranch additionally manages adjacent pastures, cookout sites, and recreation areas used in the concession operation.

Prior to the drill, fire personnel toured the Triangle X complex, identifying the location of hydrants, propane tanks, electrical shut-offs, and flammable materials storage areas. Water storage capacities were discussed, and nearby alternate water sources were examined.

Two structural fire trucks, a wildland engine, one park ambulance, 16 park employees, and a representative from the nearby Jackson / Teton County Fire Department participated in the exercise. Firefighters responded to the wildland-urban interface scenario, initiated with the assistance of Teton Interagency Dispatch Center, which sporadically broadcast radio reports to drill participants. When on scene, firefighters applied both foam and water to designated buildings and areas.

Both Grand Teton National Park participants and Triangle X Ranch staff agree that the drill was an important training exercise. In addition to allowing fire personnel to identify and meet key ranch personnel and become familiar with the ranch layout, the scenario assisted Triangle X in developing a wildland fire plan including evacuation and communication strategies.

